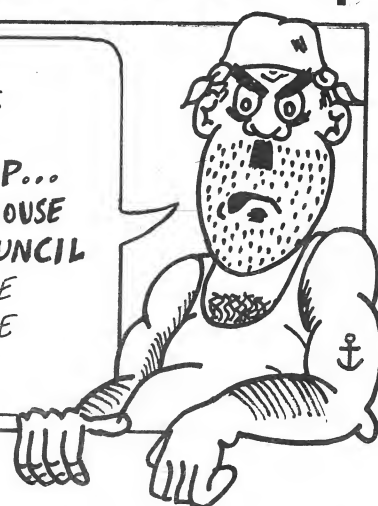


HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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"WHAT'VE THEY GOT IN IT THIS MONTH? WELL, THERE'S A PIECE ON HOW TO FORM A **FOOD CO-OP...** A BIT ON THE **GARNER'S STEAKHOUSE STRIKE...** THEN THERE'S A **COUNCIL EXPOSE...** COURSE, THERE'S THE USUAL RUBBISH AS WELL. GIVE ME THE **SUN** ANY DAY..."



Rail threat to market FUTURE HIGH ST STATION?



The 19th Century railway station - now two shops in Kingsland High Street. A possible site for the new Dalston station.

British Rail's latest decision to bulldoze their way into shops in Ridley Road to build a new station has been met with well publicised protest from market traders and customers. The railways' application for

planning permission to Hackney Council was first recorded in council minutes on September 5th. But Dudley Dryden, whose wig and cosmetic store at 36-40 Ridley Road, would be the site of the proposed booking hall and ticket office, was only informed of the plans through a Gazette reporter on September 10th. He eventually received a letter, from the Council, two weeks later outlining the scheme. The same letter was sent to market traders whose stalls would have to make way for the new Dalston station. Mr Dryden also received notice from "Covered Markets" from whom he lets the property that he must move out before August 31st next year. "Covered Markets" are a sub-tenant to British Rail and no doubt were acting on their instructions.

with the station, that "Public participation should pay an important role in the decision making process on a matter of such public significance and it is therefore intended that wide consultation should be carried out with owner/occupiers in the vicinity, and with market stallholders, Ridley Road Traders Association etc". Yet Ridley Road marketers only received notice of the proposed plans a couple of days before the Council meeting was held at which plans were to be decided on.

The slogan of the "Save Ridley Road Market" campaign, *Say No to Unilateral Decisions* might well be addressed to BR whose property is in question but it obviously reflects on the procedure of the local planning committee as well.

There are two possible alternative sites for the station apart from 36-40 Ridley Road. Dudley Dryden and other traders are in favour of a site at the east end of Ridley Road where there is already vacant ground beside the railway line. This area, away from the market centre, would not disrupt Ridley Road trading but would still provide the district with a useful train service. However Roger Lansdown, chairman of the Hackney Public Transport Action Committee told us that BR were not prepared to spend money on building a new station and providing access to it and had instead diverted their attention to a third possible site on Kingsland High Street.

STATION PREMISES NOT USED FOR OVER 100 YEARS

A small station building closed around 1870, still stands between Sainsburys and

Social work strike still possible

Whilst the social workers' strike in Tower Hamlets is in its eleventh week at the time of HPP going to press, the situation for Hackney is still unclear. The claim being made by Hackney is very similar to nearly all the claims currently being made by social workers throughout the country.

Hackney's response to their social workers' claim has been to offer a job evaluation, and then to agree to make a response to that evaluation on 9 November. Many social workers in the borough realise that this "evaluation" is likely to be no more than a time-saving move on Hackney's part whilst they wait to see what is happening around the country. It is also quite understandable for social workers to be sceptical of "job evaluation", since Lewisham's council offered this two years ago, and there has still been no cash offer. In fact, at their last mass meeting, Hackney's social workers voted overwhelmingly to reject job evaluation and

made a request to their union (NALGO) to ballot the Hackney branch for strike action. This was refused despite having given the ballot to Lewisham four weeks ago and making their strike official when the results were clearly in favour of going on strike. So Hackney's social workers have reluctantly agreed to wait until 9 November and at this stage it is impossible to predict the Council's response - or NALGO's executive who are being anything but consistent in these disputes.

To look at the background of the strike is of some value, especially as the accounts given by the popular press have been misleading. The strikes have been forced on the social workers around the country by the refusal of the employing authorities to negotiate salaries locally. The present grades are part of a national agreement which

has not been revised for seven years. It is official NALGO policy to negotiate social workers' pay conditions locally. Social workers' salaries have thus risen more slowly than other local government officers; furthermore, the present grading structures take no consideration of any additional duties and responsibilities that the social workers have been given since 1971. Most local authorities are prepared to pay above national agreements if they choose to, but sadly few authorities attach much importance to their social services department. Even if the right to negotiate locally wasn't official policy of NALGO, there would be a very strong case for the salaries in areas of great stress like Hackney and Tower Hamlets to be higher than in other parts of the country.

What is on offer? Very little. For many years, social workers' salaries in London have been negotiated at the Greater London Whitley Council. Their present offer,

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SAY NO TO UNILATERAL DECISIONS

By the time Dudley Dryden had been informed of BR's plans the "Save Ridley Road Market" campaign had already started in earnest. A campaign group was formed including many shop-owners and stall holders and campaigners approached Saturday shoppers in Ridley Road market for their support. On September 27th many traders turned out to lobby the evening Hackney Council meeting. At the same meeting councillors agreed to refuse BR planning permission until alternative sites had been investigated. Things begin to look up for marketers.

But Dudley Dryden remarked to Hackney People's Press that the Council had completely failed to follow up the recommendations of its Planning and Highways Committee of September 5th who recorded, in connection

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The Railway Tavern pub. The High Street side is now occupied by four shops: "Rumbelows" an electrical goods shop; "Flies" an open fronted boutique; "Kossofs" bakery, now vacated and "Manda, The Outsize Shop".

The North London Line Committee, a Users' group, have done research into the advantages and drawbacks of the various Kingsland High St. sites. They have submitted details of their findings to Hackney Council and British Rail which show that reopening the station on Kingsland High Street would be the cheapest option in the long run. A station on the main road would provide easy access to Dalston bus services and would be clearly visible to passers through. The cost of extending the platforms and other renovations would be made up for by the likely popularity of this position.

...BUT PLANS STILL DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

This might be the solution but it seems probable that Dalston traders may still be affected. If an entrance to a Kingsland Road Station is to take the place of the now empty bakery shop isn't it likely that one or all of the other three shops may have to be adapted as well? HPP approached the manageress of "Flies" boutique to ask her views on the question of the old station reopening. But she hadn't heard of such a suggestion. Once again it seems the Council don't feel it is important to involve local people who might be concerned.

BRITISH RAIL - SIMPLY SAVING £££££

Dudley Dryden and the campaign group have now collected over four and a half thousand signatures in their petition to the Council to save Ridley Road. The North London Line Committee have produced a care-



The centre of Ridley Road market. A station here would bring station traffic, restricted parking areas and chaos to the market.

fully researched document into the cost of the sites and some individual Councillors have actively participated in the campaign. Meanwhile British Rail sit pretty and no doubt will come round to seeing it our way - after all it makes sound sense financially doesn't it! But this is

only the beginning for Hackney people. The North London Line Committee have produced another paper, "Hackney Line Diesel Services"*, which provides a critical examination into the investment plans for the North Woolwich-Camden Road, a service which would link East London to Highbury and Isling-

WHAT IS "THE HACKNEY LINE"?

"The Hackney Line" is the name given by the Hackney Public Transport Action Committee to the proposed North Woolwich - Camden Road diesel service which would provide East London and Hackney with a much more direct connection with central London and the West End. If you look at a London A-Z you will see that there is already a track here but at present it is not used for public transport.

"Why haven't we heard about it before?" you may ask. Well British Rail haven't really thrown themselves into it in a big way any more than they have considered such notions as "public participation" which you can see from the Ridley Road situation. They don't go in much for advertising local services. There are five posters outside Dalston Junction at the moment: one partly torn timetable, one advertisement for the North London Line (Richmond-Broad Street) and three for the Motor Show, *Take the Train Right into The Motor Show*, which is in Birmingham - where else - the heart of the network of intercity links. It only costs half a week's wages.

This is the track that will be used for the proposed "Hackney Line". Here you can see where the line emerges from the tunnel under Kingsland High Street and runs along behind Ridley Rd.



ton. Their recommendations include a 20 minute all day every day service and the construction of a fourth station in Hackney at Hackney Wick to break the stretch between Homerton and Stratford. These are just a couple of features that the Greater London Council and British Rail didn't budget for on what could end

up being BR's non event of the 1980s.

* "Hackney Line Diesel Services" available from 17 Kent Avenue, London W13. Short version: £1.95. Full version: £5.00 (both inc. postage)

HACKNEY COUNCIL all hot air and fine socialist rhetoric

The Labour Party's manifesto for Hackney, which the new Council was elected on in May this year, is safe for the time being. That was the outcome of a special Leader's Panel meeting held on 17 October, when all the councillors and the senior Council officials were present.

The biggest surprise of the evening was the impassioned defence of the manifesto by the Council's chief executive, Dennis Woods, who argued that Hackney's massive problems could only be solved by the use of massive resources, which the Council would "have to fight to get". The declaration of Hackney as a partnership area was the chance that Hackney needed to get these resources.

Despite severe cases of nit-picking from some members of the right-wing old guard and the very pessimistic attitude of the Borough Treasurer, the meeting agreed that the Council's committees would each draw up a list of priorities for their spending. These will be amalgamated at another Leader's Panel meeting at the end of November and a three year plan will then be drawn up. The most important breakthrough however in the defence of the manifesto is that no ceiling has been set for the Council's spending next year.

Meanwhile the emasculation of the Broad Left group on the Council continues. They are treated in a highly patronising way by the Council front bench - the chairpersons of the various committees - who quite frequently seem to regard single Tory Joe Lobenstein as more of an ally. Although the old guard are very vociferous when it comes to fine socialist rhetoric - for instance the condemnation of the National Front and all it stands for - they won't condemn Miles Leggett, one of their own number, who is well known for his racist views. And so when the left's hotheads - one or two of whom are always jumping to their feet - speak out, all they get from the entrenched old guard is raised eyebrows and snide jokes. Catherine Hoey, for instance, is always being taunted about her attempts to get dogs banned

from public parks, as though that was the main plank in the Broad Left platform.

What is also obvious is that the Broad Left made a tactical error in refusing the chairpersonships of various key committees. Social Services, which was offered to John Sweeney, is a good example. The Left made the decision that they wouldn't accept these offers, so the Committee, one of the most important on the Council, is now run by Max Feldman, who is a disaster. And the vice-chairperson is Miles Leggett, who believes white Rhodesians should be housed in Hackney before refugees from fascist dictatorships in Latin America!

The old guard can afford to sit smiling smugly inside their warm Council chamber. They know that they still control enough seats to get a majority in the Labour group meetings - which happen behind closed doors.

The Left is stuck in the impotent position of fighting all its battles knowing that it will have to compromise, if it is to get support. Already there have been so many delays about putting the manifesto into practice that it will prove impossible to get a full programme through in the lifetime of this Council. They will need the support of influential officers like Dennis Woods if they are to make any real impression on the standard of life in the borough.

Of course, the view of Hackney People's Press is that the problems of Hackney are not going to be solved by any council, however left-wing. But implementation of a socialist strategy - which the Labour manifesto can claim in some part to be - would obviously be of some advantage to ordinary people. The sheer tedium of Council meetings and the overwhelming bureaucracy that its structure imposes mean that it will really be a question of stamina to see whether the Left can force any real change through before the 1981 elections, when they will presumably be working for a majority in the Labour group.

NO TRESPASS LAW FOR HACKNEY

Hackney Council will not be using the new Criminal Trespass Law to evict squatters. This was the result of a decision taken at the October Labour group meeting and a motion confirming the policy decision will come up at the November Council meeting. Peter Kahn, who moved the resolution, said that the Council should not use the Law because it was a "piece of anti-working class legislation".

The Council had earlier taken the decision that any potential use of the Law would be taken to the Labour group for ratification: this resolution removes the possibility that the Law will ever be used. The motion to abandon using the Law was not passed unanimously.

GYPSIES HARASSED AGAIN

The Caravan Sites Act of 1968 puts an obligation on every local authority to provide sites for travellers. Hackney, like many other local authorities, applied to be exempted from providing a site, using as an excuse the "unavailability of land".

The Department of the Environment turned down Hackney's excuse more than three years ago, and since then the Council claim they have been looking for a site and haven't been able to find one.

An existing encampment in Bridport Place, Shore-ditch, has been served with a notice to get out by 8 November. The eviction of

these travellers, if it takes place, will cost the Council well over £1,000. Instead of eviction after eviction, some public health inspectors in the borough feel that their lives would be a lot more pleasant and a lot of expense might be saved if a permanent site was found.

Such a move would also mean that the Council would be fulfilling their statutory obligation. There is no doubt that gypsies have suffered many years of being moved about by being evicted. It would be reasonable to suggest that the dirty, untidy encampments often associated with gypsies is a direct result of suitable sites not being provided by local authorities.

There is a danger, however, that the provision of a

site may give grounds for the authorities to increase gypsy harassment because of an unclear section of the Caravan Sites Act.

When a local authority is judged by the Department of the Environment to have made provision for "gypsies residing in or resorting to its area", a local authority only needs to provide a site for 15 caravans. It then becomes a crime to live as a gypsy within the area unless you live on the official site.

It is hoped then that a suitable site be found as soon as possible. Such a site should be large enough, and suitably facilitated, to avoid the possibility of official harassment or the annoyance of local residents.

RACISM IN THE COURTS

In a recent case where two black youths were found guilty of being suspected of being about to steal, the woman from whom they were alleged to steal told police that she had noticed nothing of the sort. The magistrate told police in court: "I hope you told her to get out of the way and to mind her own business."

This is part of the evidence collected by the Institute of Race Relations for a meeting of the Steering Committee of Asian Organisations Against Racism on 21 October.

The meeting was called specifically to protest at the sentences of the Virk brothers of east London who received a total sentence of over 12 years when they defended themselves from attack by three white youths who went free from the court. The evidence was collected to show that this is just one example of racist sentencing within the courts.

In June, two Asians taking part in an anti-racist demonstration in Brick Lane were charged with threatening behaviour, and had a curfew imposed on them for 12 hours each Sunday, while as a contrast the accused murderers of Ishaq Ali were allowed bail on condition that they move out of London for their own safety. On their next appearance in court they were allowed to return to London. A similar example of the judiciary's double standards is that while three Nigerians who had overstayed their visa conditions were remanded in custody, in Birmingham the alleged murderer of West Indian Vernon Brown was allowed bail.

Therefore as well as the racist attitude of the police, the black community now has to face the racist attitude of the courts.

HACKNEY ANTI- NUCLEAR GROUP

The strong feelings of some members of the Hackney Friends of the Earth group against nuclear power has led to the formation of HANG. The new group, HANG, has been formed expressly for the purpose of campaigning against nuclear power.

Whilst the group has strong support from Hackney FOE, it is nevertheless conceived as an independent group open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power.

We feel that there is urgent need for more information on the dangers of nuclear power and for wider and more informed discussions on the way in which nuclear power will restrict our lives on what nuclear energy is really costing us and on the politics involved in nuclear technology.

HANG meets every other Thursday. The next meeting will be on 9 November at 8.00 pm in Centerprise, 138 Kingsland High Street, E8. Contact Simon on 249 3008.

short news

letters

TENANTS MOVEMENT

Dear HPP

Surely it is paradoxical and almost political naivety on the part of the Hackney Labour Council to continually refuse to recognise The Tenants Federation. As we are a free and voluntary working class organisation, the attitude of the council is not only ironical but also blows sky high the myth that they were a left one.

Many of the councillors are good at making fighting speeches but it is a question who are they fighting?

These particular members certainly show more co-operation and friendship to the local chambers of commerce and the local bosses than to the tenants movement.

They must not forget it is the council tenants in the main who put them in to the Town Hall.

As the local tenants federation we have many issues affecting the well being and future of the tenants to discuss with the council. For example the Tenants Charter which sets out proposals for all tenants to go forward on, in local discussions. We do not expect the view our tenants are just rent and rate payers. We have a status and insist upon a say on how we shall live our lives on the estates.

The leader of the council, Councillor Martin Ottolangui should know better than to put himself above the tenants movement so let's have no more nonsense, Councillor.

If it's a question of fighting the council for recognition, "So be it". We will fight, as we are fighting racism.

Bob Darke
Joint Secretary FOHTA

OPEN MEETING

Dear HPP

The warm response that the Labour Party's August open meeting received showed that many activists desire to work for a more unified response to the attacks on the conditions of life for working people.

The discussion, led by Ernie Roberts, Labour Party prospective parliamentary candidate for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, provoked discussion from the floor on the Government's defence policy, hospital closures, racism, Ireland and the accountability of Area Health Authorities and local councillors.

Also introduced into the discussion were the newly-formed 'Socialists for a Labour Victory' campaign, and the need for mass campaigns to force vital issues into the open political field.

The 60 participants in this open meeting unanimously agreed to a proposal that there be more meetings of this nature and consequently the Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party has arranged 'Open Meeting 2' to which the workers' movement, its organisations, single-issue campaigns and individuals in Hackney are invited.

'Open Meeting 2' will be held at the Stamford Hill Library, Stamford Hill, N16, on Tuesday 28 November at 7.30 pm.

Yours fraternally
Frank Gorton
Education Officer,
Hackney North and Stoke
Newington Labour Party.

THE PIONEER PASTOR

Local self-styled pastor, Rupert Morris, who runs an advice centre in Bradbury St, Stoke Newington, and is one of the biggest ego-trippers in London, has really scored this time with the publication of a new 16-page paper due to come out every fortnight called The Pioneer.

The centrespread just happens to be called "Pastor Morris on Youth Affairs", and includes the phrase "20,000 black youths visited the Finsbury Park Carnival and toed the Rupert Morris line".

The paper has a long article on the "successful" Finsbury Park Carnival, described in other quarters as a "complete disaster", and on the front page the main headline reads "Jews admit links with National Front", a very strange headline, unless he is trying to stir up anti-semitism within the black community.

Another strange item on the front page is a picture of a group of leaders who are "setting out to improve race relations". A great step, one thinks, until you look a bit closer at the picture and see Councillor Miles Leggett's smiling face.

FIGHT FAIR

Do you remember Fare Fight, the "travel now, pay later" system for passenger protest against London Transport's incessant fare rises which ran for nearly a year until May 1977? Piers Corbyn, who was the test case when London Transport eventually took the campaign to court, has recently been forced to pay the £100 costs awarded against him, and he is now in debt!

Ex-Fare Fighters are now being asked to pay him a donation of £1 each to cover this deficit. Many people must have saved a lot of money on their travelling costs during the campaign, so £1 doesn't seem a lot to ask for. Please send donations to him at 55 Innis House, East Street, SE17, tel 701 5691.

We wonder whether the paper has developed as a publicity weapon to be used to persuade Hackney Council to give him more money - he needs it as the centre has had its funds from the Inner London Education Authority cut off after long investigation by the committee responsible when they discovered that there were only a handful of young people coming to the centre.

BUSES CUT

London Transport's planned bus cuts took place at the end of October with the likelihood that they still will be unable to keep to their fine promise to run all the revised schedules on time.

But Roy Smith, London Transport schedules superintendent, was quoted as saying that they "still haven't got the staff and still haven't got the buses" to give them any hope of running the new schedules properly. And he estimated that they would not be able to operate even 90 per cent of the new timetable - despite LT's original claim that 95 per cent of the new timetable would be guaranteed.

LT's pathetic acceptance of the Tories' bus plan, which has been shown to be nothing but an attack on the public transport system in London, proves that only a joint effort between LT workers and the passengers who use the service will save public transport for London. The Campaign to Improve London Transport is trying to unite workers and passengers together to do exactly what its title suggests. They have even suggested that a plan for LT be drawn up by those of us who work on it and use it.

HPP will be reporting on what the Campaign is doing. And we would like to hear from local people about their views on public transport in Hackney. Contact Campaign to Improve London Transport, c/o 8 Lucas House, Albion Avenue, London SW8.



Preventing Handicap

What is being done in Hackney to prevent babies being born handicapped? According to speakers at the Community Health Council's meeting on mental handicap, improvements in antenatal and infant care could reduce the incidence of severe mental handicap. For example, many handicaps can now be identified during pregnancy but too many expectant mothers do not go to the clinics early enough for tests to be done. One reason for this is the difficulties of getting to central hospital clinics (particularly with young children) and their often uninviting, impersonal atmosphere. A film, 'Priority of Priorities', showed how a good system of Community Midwives would prevent many expectant mothers falling through the net. In Islington, a woman is allocated to a Community Midwife by her GP as soon as her pregnancy is confirmed and this midwife monitors the pregnancy in a local health centre clinic or in the woman's home and is present at the delivery in the hospital.

deal with the equipment. The film showed that of 43 such units only eight had staff who were properly trained to ensure that a baby received the correct oxygen intake. As well as this, more obstetric centres are needed and more investigation and feedback into what went wrong is required. All this costs money, of course, but so does handicap and the Spastics Society's campaign to channel funds into the prevention of handicap makes more sense. A programme of measures adopted in France paid for itself in the numbers saved from handicap in only four years.

GENETIC CAUSES

There will always be some mentally handicapped people because of genetically-caused handicap and much must be done to improve facilities for these people. During the lively discussion which followed the film, several speakers from the audience showed how the lack of information about available facilities and the poor communication between different helping agencies made life unnecessarily difficult for their families. It was six months after one mother of a handicapped child moved to Hackney before anyone came to see how she was coping - six months without any support could have been too long for many families. One suggestion raised was the formulation of a printed statement of the rights of the mentally handicapped, a list of their entitlements and of assistance which is available. Not a formidable task, is it? Existing services are too fragmented and are not reaching those in need.

It seems that mental handicap is low priority because those who suffer from it are unable to help themselves and those who do not suffer from it feel that it is not a problem that will ever affect them. The CHC meeting showed how mistaken this view is.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Another reason for late clinic attendance is the lack of knowledge of women of the importance of attending before the sixteenth week and of careful monitoring of the pregnancy. Both are matters of education and yet the Spastics Society has been refused permission to approach Hackney schools to talk to the pupils emphasising the importance of a healthy pregnancy.

Other handicaps can be caused during the first minutes of life. Many hospitals have Intensive Care Units which are intended for the prevention of handicap and of neo-natal deaths. But instead of prevention they are often the cause of mental handicap because the staff is not properly trained to

THREATENED BY BULLDOZERS

This is Cawley Road in South Hackney. Attractive, sound houses bordering on Victoria Park. On the open market they would soon be snapped up by the middle classes, but obviously they are far too good for council tenants! So they are to be bulldozed.

Cawley Road together with Wetherall Road and Rockmead Road forms a triangle between Victoria Park and Victoria Park Road. At one time there were plans to widen Victoria Park Road for use as a major slip road for the East Cross route and this would have meant putting the building line back by 70 feet. In 1976, when Tower Hamlets made their half of Victoria Park and the area surrounding it a conservation area, Hackney reciprocated. But although there was pressure from the DOE and the GLC to make the area larger, the area which Hackney defined was roughly a circle from the end of the park. Well - almost a circle. There was an indentation to exclude the Cawley Road triangle. Curious!

But that is not the plan. The plan is to bulldoze the whole area to build a rather cheap scheme of flats and maisonettes. Work to clear more houses and build on the empty sites is scheduled to start next summer.

South Hackney Residents' Association maintain that the reasons for bulldozing the site are not good enough. Their arguments are that:

- * the houses are attractive, sound and suitable for conversion;
- * they are an intrinsic part of the park and Well Street Common;
- * it perpetuates different standards of housing for rich and poor;
- * there are enough empty areas on the site for all the development that is needed;
- * housing policy should be increasing the amount of space available per household as standards go up as well as keeping options open so people really have a choice of the type of housing they want. Thus the proposals are very short-sighted.

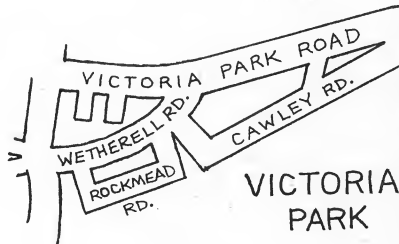
the windows are very small to cut down traffic noise but at the same time they exclude the much coveted outlook on the park; and surely it's only coincidental that the vast area of grass between the flats and Victoria Park Road makes a road widening scheme a feasibility?

One may ask why Guinness went to the Council for financing the Cawley Road site when as a housing association they could have gone to the GLC or the housing corporation.

Hackney Council generally follows a clearance policy (remember Barbauld Road in 1975?) - they claim it would be inconsistent not to bulldoze Cawley Road also. The plans for Cawley Road have been passed. But while the houses are still standing the fight to save them must continue.

CROWN ESTATE OWNERSHIP

The triangle is part of the Crown Estate, but since early October is being leased to the Guinness Trust. At present it includes a lot of empty spaces from bomb damage and from where unsafe houses have been cleared. The houses which are still standing, consisting largely of three and six-roomed flats, have been badly maintained and are poorly populated. (In one house one man lives alone, the basement flat has been empty for 15 years and the ground floor for eight years.) As a consequence there is much dumping and many burglaries. Many people would think that the solution to these problems would be to rehabilitate.



'SHABBY' SCHEME

South Hackney Residents' Association describe the new scheme as shabby. Although there are to be 191 units of varying size (including 53 intended for OAPs) there is no garage space; there are no gas points in the flats so heating will be by night storage heaters, which are notoriously expensive;

Housing Developments

No one would deny that Hackney's Comprehensive Housing Service under the direction of its chief officer, Tony Shoults, has a lot of weak points. The innumerable problems on Hackney's estates are an oft cited indication that things are not improving quick enough for their residents. Over the last month, for instance, we've heard that vital improvements on the Lordship Estate, on Morley House in Cazenove Road and on the Trelawney Estate are all long delayed.

Quite rightly, the tenants are angry, and even Mr Shoults would probably accept that the improvement programme is not happening as quickly as he would have hoped. At the same time it is a sad truth that not everyone's needs can be

met at once. With the massive amount of work to be done there are bound to be delays.

But there are some good points to be made about the Housing Department, too. Under Shoults' instructions one of his officers recently submitted a paper to the Housing Development Committee on the use of shortlife property. If the proposals passed were put into practice we could see considerably fewer empty properties in Hackney in a year or so. One of the main reasons for properties lying empty is that the Department have never really given anyone the responsibility of trying to get them used while they await major improvements or redevelopment.

Under Shoults' recommendations a section of his department now has the job

of facilitating shortlife usage, and now the Chief Housing Officer has powers to offer properties largely at his discretion. Another encouraging development is that the Housing Department have also approved a close liaison with the Housing Emergency Office - an independent group with much experience of using shortlife property. The HEO have been working closely with the Hackney Housing Action Group for some months, and together they are preparing plans for schemes to use shortlife properties. The HEO/HAG are now making a full assessment of the needs of local groups and people who are not a housing priority of the Department's who might use shortlife property, and will be reporting back to the Housing Department soon.

FRONT HQ OPPOSED

The campaign to force the fascist National Front out of their new headquarters in Shoreditch is under way. It is obvious that they are not intending to use the building for the only purpose for which planning permission has been given: use as a warehouse.

Recently, for instance, journalists were invited to the building for a press conference for the launching of the Front's so-called exposé of the Anti-Nazi League. Despite a picket outside of local anti-fascists most of the Fleet Street reporters went in to get given copies.

PLANNING PERMISSION

If the Front intend to use the building for any other purpose, then they would have to apply for planning permission. Bob Masters, the chairperson of Hackney's Planning and Highways Committee, has already indicated that the Council would not give it. He said that planning permission has to take account "the social behaviour of the people involved. And that does not appear to be very good."

Already four Front heavies have appeared in court following an incident outside the building when a cyclist passing by was attacked by a number of men with pickaxe handles. One of these handles is supposed to have had instructions on how to use it attached. This would be almost funny if it wasn't for the fact that the man attacked had to have 63 stitches put into head wounds. When the police arrived on the scene, the Front retreated inside their stronghold. The police then broke the door down and took ten people away, charging four of them later.

Local Anti-Nazi League supporters have meanwhile been collecting signatures for a petition opposing the presence of the Front's building in Hackney. More than ten thousand people have signed so far, many of them in mass signing sessions in Hoxton Market. One of these sessions was disrupted by a number of Front members who attacked four ANL supporters.

The signatures will be presented to the Council at its November meeting at the end of the month. There will be a torchlight procession to the Town Hall. ANL supporters are also asking local trades unionists to black all essential services to the building: so far they have met a good response.

The publication "Lifting the Lid on the Anti-Nazi League" is an extraordinarily paranoid publication, full of falsehoods and half-truths. The main strand running through the whole leaflet is the old Nazi theory of the worldwide Jewish-Communist conspiracy. Every prominent Jewish left politician is mentioned on the pamphlet, and most are described as Marxist or Marxist-Trotskyist. Quotations about the ANL from Socialist Worker are taken to show that the League is an SWP "front" organisation, when it is quite easy to demonstrate that the ANL is much bigger than the SWP and the other far left parties and groups.

VIOLENCE

The other main accusation is that the ANL instigates violence against the Front. It is true that the Front are very careful to avoid clashes on its organised marches, when it is surrounded by police and the press and TV cameras. So it is quite easy for anti-fascists to be seen as the aggressors when they try and stop the provocative actions of the Front in marching through multi-racial areas. Time and time again it has been proved that Front members have been involved in organised violence against blacks and Asians and have attempted to destroy any organisation which opposes them and which stands for political progress.

The Front has made its most provocative move yet in setting up its new headquarters in the borough where it believes it has the strongest support. It is up to local people to demonstrate that they have no support and to take a stand against the fascists wherever they move in Hackney. We must show them that we don't want them here - or anywhere else.

Kids outside the Old Bailey were threatened by this dragon - all for possessing "silly secrets". Will the judge be as fierce?
Photo Ernie Greenwood.



MORE SECRETS CHARGES DROPPED

The second ABC Official Secrets trial has proved to be almost as dramatic as the first. After two weeks, and the appearance of Colonel Hugh Anthony Johnstone, once known as Colonel B, in the witness box, a protracted legal argument led to the dropping of the most serious charges against the three defendants. Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell, both journalists, and John Berry, an ex-soldier, had been accused of breaking both Section 1 and Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act in a conversation that they had had in February 1977.

MAJOR VICTORY

However, the judge has now decided that the evidence that the prosecution has produced does not warrant the seriousness of a Section 1 charge - which is usually used in spying cases - and has told the jury that they need not consider them. So the defendants must face charges under Section 2 - the discredited section of the Official Secrets Act, which even the Government is pledged to reform, which carry much less serious charges. Obviously, the dropping of the Section 1

charges is a major victory for the defence, but the defence is still fighting for a complete acquittal on all counts.

INSIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE

The evidence that the notorious Colonel B gave in court was not very significant in its own right. He was confronted with the sort of information which has been published about Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) - the unit he commanded and in which John Berry served - and he refused to confirm or deny published reports. He told the court: "British national policy is that we don't talk about these things."

Perhaps the most interesting part of the trial is the amount which has been carried out with the jury out of court or in secret, the press and public excluded. When the jury is absent, the press cannot report what has been said. Thus it has not been possible to report any discussion on which may or may not have happened about any methods which may or may not have been used to select the jury. We can report that in the first trial, the one

which was abandoned after remarks about the jury on the TV programme, *Saturday Night People*, the jury was vetted by the prosecution for "disloyalty". They didn't say how they defined "disloyalty". All the same, in the second week of the trial. Attorney General Sam Silkin, thought fit to release a public statement on the whole subject of jury vetting. He didn't actually say that the jury had been vetted for the second trial, but readers can draw their own conclusions... And who is likely to report the Attorney General to the Attorney General for a contempt of court?

THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Whatever the outcome of the trial, which will be known sometime in early November, it is certain that Government secrecy and the misdeeds and illegal activities it conceals have become a major issue.

A complete acquittal on all charges would be a significant opening up of our tradition of governing behind closed doors - and a victory for the public right to know.

Much at stake for Garner workers

Nine months after the workers at Garner's Steak Houses went on strike for union recognition, one of the company's top managers has decided to quit.

The company's accountant, Philip Carlow, has been the most anti-union of all the Garner's management. He has consistently abused and insulted pickets outside the company's head office in Gerrard Street when they have been on early morning picket to turn away delivery lorries. He even went so far as to turn back the lapel of his jacket to reveal a

National Front badge.

His departure is seen as a breakthrough for the persistent and determined industrial action undertaken by the Garner's Strikers.

There is no doubt that the company's business has been badly hit by the picketing. Inevitably some restaurants have closed whilst the trade at others has been cut to a trickle.

Perhaps the restaurants' trade was never as badly hit as on Saturday 7 October when 1,500 trades unionists and supporters marched in sympathy with the strikers and then

dispersed to the picket lines.

After a Rally at Speakers Corner, addressed by Ms Desai of Grunwick's and speakers from the Sanderson's dispute for union recognition, the march paraded down Oxford Street to Trafalgar Square, past several restaurants. But this was not the end of the

show of support, for after the march hundreds of people threw a picket round the

Haymarket and Whitcomb Street branches of Garner's. All the other restaurants were picketed in a magnificent display of solidarity.

It is clear that picketing can win this strike. This is what you can do:

- * 'Adopt' a Steak House to picket once a week (addresses in telephone directory);
- * Weekly or fortnightly collection at work - many union shops are now sending in a regular donation to the Strike Fund. Mostly people are being asked to pay a voluntary levy of 20p or 30p. Hand the money over to one of the strikers on the picket line, or send in a cheque;
- * Display leaflets and posters at work;
- * Organise a meeting at work

and ask for a speaker from the Strike Committee.

On Saturday 7 October, eight people were arrested after the march, bringing the total of arrests to 41 since the strike began. On the day one of the strikers was brutally assaulted by an unknown attacker. Another was arrested on the picket line - after nine months picketing! We can win this strike - but only with your support.

Contact Garners Steak Houses Strike Committee, Room 84, 12/13 Henrietta St, London WC2, tel 240 1056.

Save money by forming a food co-op!

BIG IS BEAUTIFUL



BULK buying is virtually the only way left for the consumer to fight increasing food prices. Many people now realise how much they can save by doing at least some of their shopping in bulk - most of them reasonably well-off with a car and plenty of storage space. But what about those hardest hit by price increases - the pensioner or the family on a low income?

The food co-op is one way in which anybody, no matter how little money they have or whether they live alone or have a large family, can reap the benefits of bulk buying. By getting together with other people, pooling buying power and sharing the work involved in collecting and distributing the food, you can do most of your weekly shopping more cheaply and easily. By combining shopping needs it is possible to buy a large order at reduced or wholesale prices and then divide the purchases amongst the members, so spending time rather than money. And it's more fun!

All that is needed to form a co-op is a group of as little as two or three people with enthusiasm for the idea and a little time to devote. They should call a meeting of everyone interested to discuss basic questions such as how members are to be recruited, how large the co-op should be and what type.

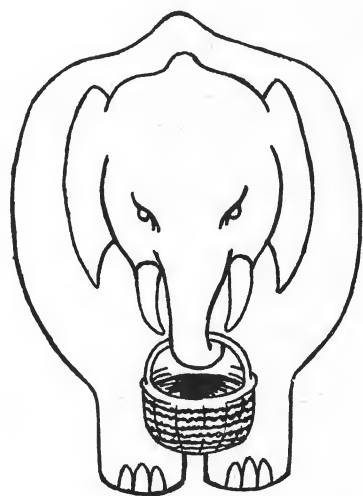
Co-ops vary a great deal in size and methods of organisation and there are several types. Some have specialised aims, such as providing food in small quantities for the elderly living alone, and the National Consumer Council has set up a Bulk Buy Bureau to provide information and help specifically for such co-ops.

A co-op with only a few members, say five to ten households, may adopt the "Pot Luck System". Each member puts in a pre-arranged sum of money and one or two members, the job rotating each week, do the buying. The money, less transport costs, is spent on the best bargains within the range of agreed items and the food is divided equally among the members. This is a very simple system but the members' tastes should be quite similar since they must accept whatever bargains are chosen by the person doing the buying.

The pre-order co-op, normally consisting of 10-25 households, is probably the best way to begin co-operative buying. It consists of three basic stages: ordering, buying and distribution. Briefly, each member fills in an individual order form and the details are then transferred to a master order form. The total for each item of food is then calculated; possibly this is rounded up or down to equal the wholesale quantities in which the food is sold. The food is purchased from the cheapest supplier

and returned to the distribution point for members to come and collect their adjusted order.

In this system there are two basic methods of payment. In the first, no money is paid until the order is collected, creating the initial problem of paying for the first order. One way round this is for the new member to pay twice in the first week, once for the initial order and again to buy the second order on a week-in-hand basis. Or you may decide to run a jumble sale or other fund-raising event or else a local charity or voluntary body may be able to provide a float.



The second method of payment calls for each member to pay for the order before it is purchased. There is no need for a deposit but there is the added complication of calculating each week the difference between a pre-paid estimate of the cost and the actual price. Any money not used is held over to the next week and members receive credit on their next order to avoid handling a lot of small change. A big advantage is that people do not forget to pick up their food on time since they have already paid for it. However, it does rely on fairly accurate estimates of the coming week's prices and since they do vary so frequently the previous method of payment is probably the least trouble.

But whichever method is chosen, the shopper should take some additional cash in case the bill is more than the money collected; and extra money is needed for continuous expenses, such as petrol, or one-off purchases like scales or a pocket calculator. Probably the fairest system of raising this money is to put a percentage mark-up on an order - five per cent for example - so that each person pays according to the amount he or she has purchased.

What you need

- * Transport: an estate car will be big enough for most co-ops but a van makes loading and stacking easier.
- * Calculator: not an essen-

tial, but makes life a lot easier!

* Scales: ordinary kitchen scales are adequate for weighing small units such as rice, lentils, etc. A hanging spring balance is best for larger weights.

* Refrigerator: could prove useful depending on what you buy (see below).

* Bags and boxes: each member needs a strong cardboard box for his or her order. Old newspapers are useful for vegetables and bags, jars or other containers for wholefoods, etc.

Organising the work

You can stick to the same job each week or take it in turns on a rota basis. You can combine two or three jobs or two or more people can handle one job. But however you handle it all the jobs have to be done so it is best to have a co-ordinator to make sure everyone knows what he or she is supposed to be doing. And it is also vital that more than one person knows how to do a particular job.

* The order taker collects the filled in order forms (and money, in a pre-paid system).

* The tabulator works out the total amount of food ordered and the total bill for each order, together with agreed mark-up.

* The driver is responsible for transport to and from suppliers and loading, along with

* The shopper, who chooses and buys the food and records details of the purchases.

* The sorter divides the food into individual orders for collection and deals with any surplus.

Whichever method of organisation you choose, it's a good idea after a couple of weeks to write down the details of what each job entails so that all members have a clear idea of what they will have to do.

Ordering

Most co-ops use printed, duplicated or photocopied individual order forms, listing the food items normally purchased. Members enter the quantity required next to the item. Then all the orders are added together and transferred to the master order form which is used by the shoppers. The individual order forms, to which the prices charged are added, are returned as a receipt to the members when they pick up their orders. Always write the date on order forms to avoid mix-ups.

What and where to buy

Fruit and vegetables: savings vary but with skilful buying should average out about 30% - this may well encourage members to try produce they would not normally buy such as exotic fruits. Most co-ops go to the nearest large dealer's market for fruit and vegetables. Spitalfields, although not the largest in London, is considered more friendly than, say, New Covent Garden.

The best bargains are obtained by arriving between 5.30 and 6.30 am - the earlier the better. Prices aren't marked but if the co-op buyers wait around for a few minutes they will probably hear the prices quoted. It is vital to inspect the produce carefully to avoid buying mouldy or sub-standard produce.

It is possible to buy in bulk from local greengrocers, obtaining reductions of up to 20 per cent. This has the advantage of supporting your local small shop, using the greengrocer's experience to ensure you obtain good produce and cutting down transport costs but has the disadvantage that the co-op will have to pay more than the market price in order to cover the shopkeeper's costs and time.

Wholefoods: savings of up to 50 per cent on normal shop prices can be made on some items including lentils, split peas, soya beans, rice, oats, spaghetti, nuts and honey. Most of the wholesalers specialising in these goods are situated in London. Some of them deal in only large bulk quantities - eg 56 lb and 112 lb sack - but others subdivide these quantities.

Meat: although savings of between 10 and 20 per cent on bulk purchases from your local butcher are possible it must be remembered that it is a problem to keep frozen foods in large quantities without a freezer and can be difficult to make use of the cheapest form of meat such as a half pig since the co-op will take away a mixture of chops, joints, cuts, bones etc which must be divided fairly between the members.

Eggs: available from fruit and vegetable wholesale markets or Daylay cash and carry centres, at a saving of around 15 per cent.

Because of the processing and packaging involved in tinned and frozen food and dairy produce, the profit margin on them is small and it is not easy to make any large savings. The normal source of tinned and processed foods are the cash and carry wholesalers who also sell household supplies such as detergent and disinfectant. But they are showing less inclination to deal with the general public due to pressure from retailers.

Distribution

The distribution centre may be rotated round each of the members' houses in a small co-op but not all homes are large enough to cope with the demands of a larger group. The area must be large enough to allow movement of all the boxes, crates, etc, well lit and have an easily cleaned floor surface.

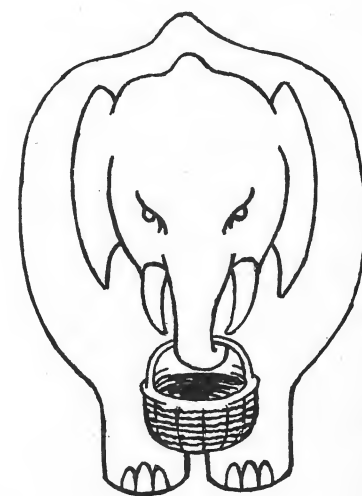
The best method to adopt is probably to have a group of two or three volunteers who make up each member's order from the individual order forms. Each volunteer should be responsible for a

small number of different items of food so that any shortages there may be can be spread out evenly. The food should be arranged around the room in order of fragility so that food can be placed in each member's box or bag in the right order with the minimum of difficulty.

Other advantages

One of the main advantages of a food co-op, other than cheaper food, is that new friends and acquaintances are made. Once the co-op is formed, members can find other interests and activities to share.

Although food co-ops are predominantly middle-class at present, once the idea of food co-ops spreads, together with the advantages attached, there is no reason why people from all sections of the community should not be able to get together and form one of their own.



Further reading

The information for this article was taken from the following two booklets which are recommended: *Food Co-ops* by Colin Hines, published by Friends of the Earth and obtainable from FOE Ltd, 9 Poland St, W1, tel 434 1684. Price 60p (inc p&p) or 45p from Neal's Yark (see below).

The Bulk Buy Book published by the National Consumer Council whose Bulk Buy Bureau publishes the journal 'Bulk Buy' every two months at a cost of £1 for six editions. Contact them at 18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, tel 839 2846.

Wholefood wholesalers (send SAE for price lists) Community Supplies, 21-23 Tolmers Square, NW1 (387 2474) Neal's Yard Wholefood Warehouse, Neal's Yard, WC2 (240 1154) Harmony Foods (minimum order £50) 1 Earl Cottages, SE1 (237 8396)

Eggs

Daylay cash and carry centre (minimum quantity 30 dozen), Princes Way, Edmonton (807 1625).

Also see Yellow Pages under Fruit Wholesalers, Cash and Carries and Meat.

If you know of any food co-ops in Hackney please let us know.

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.
For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146 (office hours)

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM
East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION
c/o 35 Fimmere Road, Woodberry Down, N4.

Women

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE
1 Cazenove Road, N16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

SNAGS
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 936 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
245 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 985 5244.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?
EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Education

SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
83 Eleanor Road, E8.
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.

June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Cal Weatherald, Highbury Manor AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N.16 on Thursday mornings.



Political Groups

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON
Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.
HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Blethley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays, Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.

HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY CENTRAL
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.
HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.

HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Meets regularly in the borough: Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

LONDON WORKERS GROUP
For independent militants, working anarchists, and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

ANARCHY COLLECTIVE
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

SOCIETY FOR ANGLICAN-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN HACKNEY GROUP
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT
Campaigns on third world issues, especially against the Arms Trade to these countries.

NEW COMMUNIST PARTY
Hackney Branch meets on a Tuesday night at Centerprise, 8pm. Information from NCP, 395 Walworth Road, SE17 2AW.

Men

DALSTON MEN'S GROUP
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

Music and Broadcasts

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free. The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO
Programme schedule:
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows
5pm-7pm Soul Show
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement (local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. in Centerprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

Transport



HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

Gays

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS
Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road.

SMALL ADS

If you're poor, or a good cause, HPP will advertise your wants, or needs, or find you a flat, or publicise your meetings FOR FREE! Just send us your ad - by 24 November - for the next issue.

Woman, recently moved to Hackney, would like a room in communal household. Contact Louise at Centerprise, tel 254 9632.

Christmas Fete to be held at St Dominic's Social Centre, Ballance Road, E9, on Saturday 18 November at 2.30 pm. Lots of stalls including home produce, jumble, books, lucky dip, tombola and many more. Entrance 5p, children 2p. Organised by Hackney Women's Aid. Don't miss it!

Hackney People's Press Duplicating. Need some duplicating done or a photostencil cut? Available anytime. Paper £1.75 a ream, photostencils 35p each. Useful for emergencies. Phone 254 1306 and ask for Chris.

Any spare jumble? HPP is having a jumble sale soon. See next issue for details. If you've got any spare jumble then please ring 249 0311 or 254 1306.

WANTED: room in flat or house for guy, 23. Max £12 per week rent. Please contact Box Q, Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.



Hackney



Girls Project

A group of women living and working in the Hackney area have become concerned about the poor provision of community and social activities for girls in the neighbourhood.

Traditionally, girls have not participated fully in all aspects of youth provision; in addition, they have found it difficult to take advantage of the new educational and career opportunities provided by the Sex Discrimination Act. Hackney Girls' Project has been set up to help remedy

this situation with a long term view of establishing a permanent improvement in facilities and leisure opportunities for girls.

The initial step has been to organise a month of varied activities for girls and young women from 7-24 November. The programme includes a series of six evening events to take place in the basement at Centerprise and, running concurrently, a public exhibition in the coffee bar and appropriate display in the bookshop. In addition, there will be available a wide range of free informative literature. The exhibition, literature and book display will be available to individual visitors and also parties of schoolgirls during the daytime as well as the evening sessions.

Programme

Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Nov 8: IMAGES OF GIRLS - a short play by Haringey girls' group. A slide show challenging popular images of girls by Hackney Flashers.

Nov 15: BEING FEMALE, BEING HEALTHY - A short film from the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

Nov 22: GIRLS AND WORK - A practical workshop run by Women in Manual Trades in plumbing, electricity, carpentry, plus screen-printing.

Thursdays 7.30-9.30 pm

Nov 9: BLACK GIRLS IN SOCIETY - A video about being black and young in our society. Discussion on race relations, racism and fascism.

Nov 16: TAKE IT LIKE A MAN, MA'AM - Hilarious full-length film with a brilliant

dream sequence. Watch and laugh as men do the typing, shopping and vie for the attentions of fat, rich businesswomen in sleazy bars.
Nov 23: LIVE MUSIC BY CLAPPER-CLAW - Performance and music workshop by a group of women musicians. Plus drama workshops.
REFRESHMENTS
ALL EVENTS GIRLS ONLY(13-19)

HPP CROSSWORD NO. 4

across

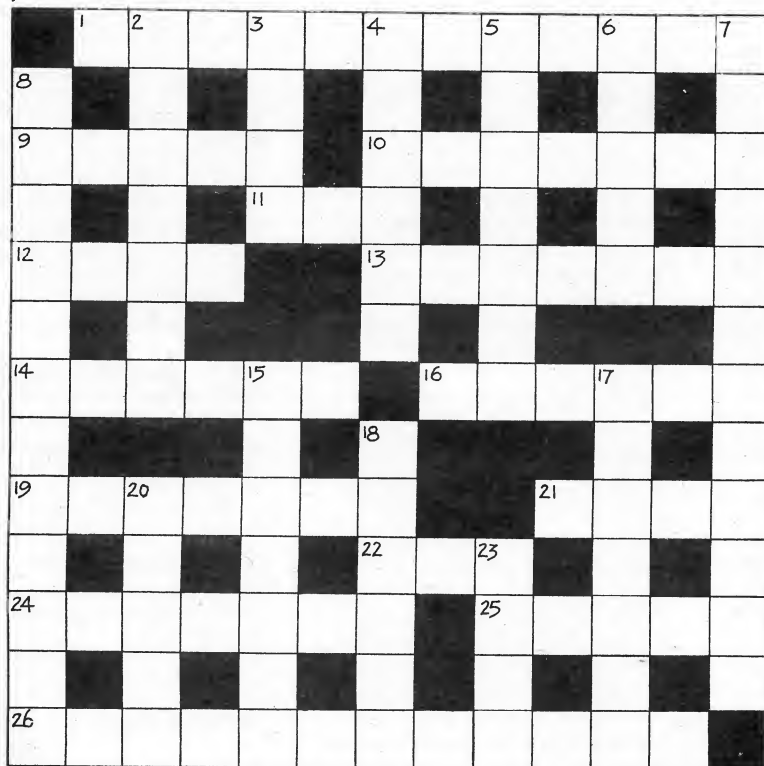
1. With which to combat 75 per cent redundancy? (7,5)
9. Getting warmer? Without a start I'm beaten (5)
10. There's a reindeer in the car I bought! (7)
11. It's grounded down under (3)

12. Kind manner (4)
13. Tom and Dora provide a welcome to visitors (4,3)
14. Food for the photogenic? (6)
16. Lie! Ask again (6)
19. With a total that is, without doubt, stunning (7)
21. Pick out a small quantity (4)
22. Only half an eraser - that's the difficulty (3)

24. A small measure of influence to give effect to ... (7)
25. ... something happening in the Seventies (5)
26. Poor incognito for Cyril Smith? (4,8)

down

2. On impulse raises tumultuous movement (7)
3. Artist about? Extraordinary! (4)
4. Rescue dog? Reg needs foreign cash for that (6)
5. Cor! Goes out with skinflint (7)
6. Book of stamps? (5)
7. On the side of the People's Press when upper-class involved (6,6)
8. Endgame in a neck and neck situation (5,7)
15. Drink for Mr Bond? Not so (7)
17. Burden with work on the paper (7)
18. Takes the same case for suits (6)
20. Plain-clothes lawman (5)
23. Handsome French lover (4)



dutch treat for hpp

Earlier this year, Wim van der Laan, a youth officer from Landelijk Centrum Gereformeerd Jeugdwerk, the national centre for Reformed Church youth work in Holland, met one of the HPP workers at a conference, and, following a long discussion about the problems of East London, a speaking tour of Holland was arranged.

This took place in early October, and a great deal of interest was shown in the threat of the National Front, and our coverage of their activities. A large amount of financial and moral support was shown by the Federation of Christian Youth Work in the Friesland area, who raised over 3,000 guilders, about £750, in one night of fundraising.

There were also collections at three conferences of Reformed Church youth workers, collections at some smaller meetings and a number of

individual donations which added up to a commitment of more than £1,300 which will go into our Capital account.

About £600 of this money is due to be spent on type-setting equipment but we have yet to decide what to spend the remainder on; it is hoped that it might go towards the cost of providing office space for the paper.

This is one significant step in our aim to come out as a bigger, more frequent paper, and we are grateful to those responsible. However, with more money we can set our sights higher, and so all donations will still be gratefully received.

Please send donations, marked "Capital Account", to HPP c/o 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

I would like a subscription to Hackney People's Press. I enclose a cheque for £2.00 for the next twelve issues, delivered postfree to my door.

Name _____

Address _____



It is expected that the part of Hackney People's Press written by young people, the Hackney GasBag will reappear in the December issue of the paper.

The group of young people (aged 12-16) involved in the production of the Hackney GasBag will be meeting on every Friday at Centerprise at 7.00 pm.

We're interested in articles on sport, films, school, interviews with famous people, articles on the areas where you live. Whatever you want to write will go into the paper. You will have full control over that page of the paper so come along.

Social work strike continued from front page

which was rejected nearly three months ago by 31 of 32 London boroughs is unacceptable to the social workers on a number of counts. Firstly it is simply not enough to attract social workers to come and work in London when they can get much better conditions of service elsewhere. Secondly the offer does not include senior social workers, social work assistants and ancillary workers at all. These grades are already negotiated locally.

Furthermore, nothing is guaranteed to be paid; the employing authorities insist that social workers return to work before any firm offers are made. It is quite clear, however, that these disputes are not just about pay. The social workers are fighting for the ability to provide local people with a decent social service, let us not forget that.